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Careers With Census

Mathematical Statisticians

Computer Specialists

Statisticians

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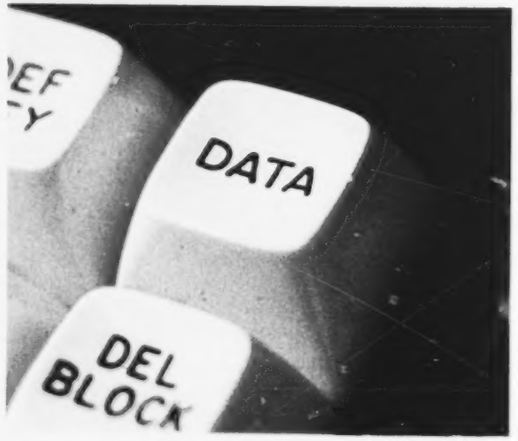
Fact Finder For The Nation

The Bureau of the Census is the world's largest statistical organization. It is a primary operating unit in the Department of Commerce, and its mission is to provide basic statistics about the people and the economy of the Nation to the Congress, the executive branch, and the general public. The Census Bureau became a permanent agency in 1902, and has been a part of the Department of Commerce since 1913.

The singular "Census" in the Bureau's title refers to the historic enumeration of the population, required by the United States Constitution and carried out every 10 years since 1790. Its original purpose was to maintain proportional representation in the House of Representatives. However, once the census was set in motion, our government perceived the need for more data about the people and their enterprises. These expanded data were used to achieve the goal of industrial self-sufficiency in our new and growing Nation. Today the decennial enumeration of the population is only one of several censuses conducted by the Bureau. Others include the censuses of housing, manufacturing, agriculture, mineral industries, governments, construction industries, business, and transportation.

To update the information gathered in the censuses, the Bureau uses statistical sampling techniques to conduct weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys. These samplings are made possible through baseline data provided by the periodic censuses, which permit survey planners to develop representative samples. The Bureau publishes a minimum of 1,500 reports every year. This number may increase to as many as 5,000 as a result of a major census.

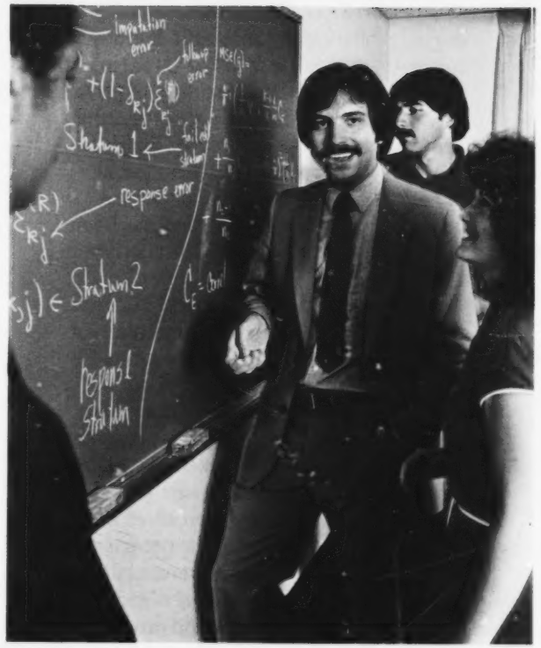


While most of the Bureau's personnel needs are met by individuals with backgrounds in computer science, demographics, economics, mathematics, and statistics, some opportunities exist for backgrounds in other fields. The professionals and supporting technical specialists at the Census Bureau form the nucleus of a fact-finding agency that enjoys the high regard of all users of the data. Other Federal agencies, private users of Bureau data, and foreign statisticians and governments look to the Census Bureau for today's facts as well as tomorrow's.

Mathematical Statisticians

Mathematical statisticians at the Census Bureau conduct research in the areas of sampling, quality control, modeling, and other fields which relate to the development of improved techniques, methodologies, and equipment. Statistical standards are the cornerstone of the Bureau's integrity. These standards are developed and maintained by Bureau researchers who have expertise in mathematical statistics. A related focus of our mathematical statisticians is their responsibility for ongoing reviews of statistical validity. In fact, pioneering research efforts at the Bureau of the Census have led to the development of standard techniques in scientific sampling.

As a minimum, mathematical statisticians must have 24 semester hours in mathematics and statistics. At least 12 hours are in mathematics, and 6 are in statistics. Four of the mathematics courses must be at the level of differential and integral calculus or higher.



Computer Specialists

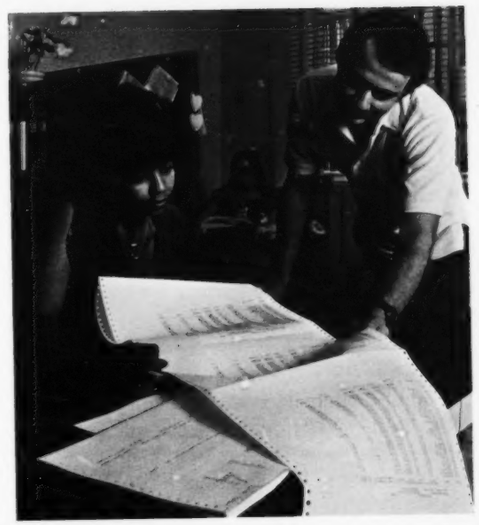
Computer specialists find career opportunities at the Bureau as varied as the computer field itself. Systems analysts keep abreast of rapid changes in methods and equipment. In addition, they design and validate major processing systems and routines, and seek solutions to unique processing problems created by the Bureau's needs. Applications programmers are found in all the subject matter divisions. Their primary responsibility is to design programs that edit, correct, and match data, as well as programs which develop tabulations. Extensive data files must be massaged and processed. Census Bureau processing falls somewhere between business and scientific processing, and involves both statistics and mathematics.

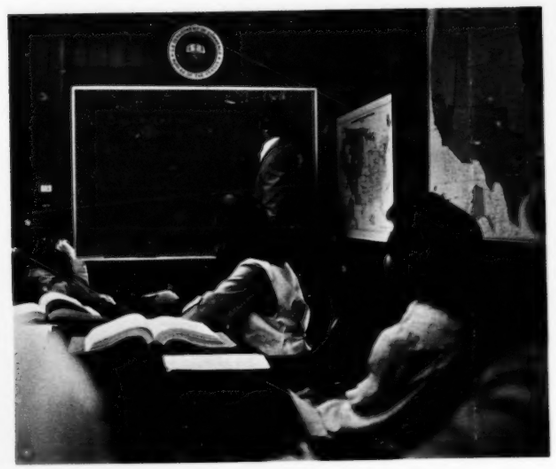
Applications programmers work with other specialists to develop and finalize computer specifications, and to design and test both systems and programs. State-of-the-art software systems are written by systems programmers. Census Bureau engineers design special equipment and make adaptations on commercial equipment in order to meet the unique demands of Census processing. The never-ending search for a better technique makes innovation and imagination the mainstay of the Census Bureau computer specializations—specializations which provide the foundation to the information programs we provide.

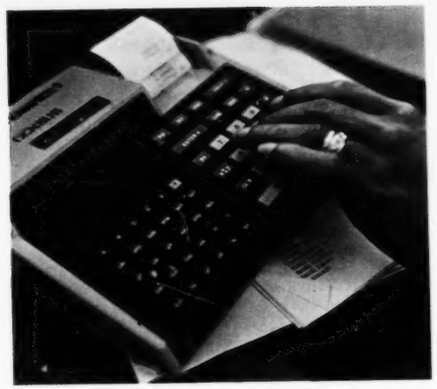
Statisticians

Statisticians are found throughout the Bureau. Statisticians are instrumental in the design of questionnaires, the preparation of analytical studies of data, and the development of systems for capturing and processing data. They work to ensure that data are readily accessible and appropriate. Survey statisticians in the Bureau's 12 regional field offices recruit and train Census interviewers, and supervise the various surveys and censuses. In so doing, they also work closely with officials of local government and business.

Statisticians must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, a minimum of 15 semester hours in mathematics and statistics, of which 6 must be in statistics, and an additional 9 in a subject area, e.g., social sciences, business, etc.







Benefits of Federal Employment

Why join the Census Bureau? Because the Bureau offers its employees unusual opportunities for growth and self-fulfillment. Management commitment to individual career development as well as state-of-the-art methodology are two of the strongest determinants for accepting a position with the Census Bureau.

Other considerations include the considerable pay and fringe benefits offered by Federal employment. Most positions are in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. These assignments involve a flexible 40-hour workweek, Monday through Friday, with little overtime and only occasional travel. Assignments in one of the Bureau's 12 regional offices involve some travel throughout a multi-State area approximately 5-8 days a month. Paid annual leave begins at 13 workdays per year, increases to 20 days after 3 years, and advances to 26 days after 15 years. Sick leave is earned at the rate of 13 days per year and accumulates indefinitely. Health and life insurance programs and retirement plans are among the most liberal available.

Life in the Washington, D.C. area offers a range and richness of cultural resources that befit the capital of a great nation. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Institute, and the National Gallery of Art are characteristic of the amenities of life in the Nation's capital. Recreational opportunities abound. The close proximity of the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean makes water sports popular. Winter sports flourish in the mountains, only an hour away. One-day outings may include trips to the Shenandoah Valley, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Williamsburg, Monticello, Philadelphia, and other points of interest too numerous to mention.

We look forward to receiving the attached card from you. We would be delighted to provide you with more comprehensive information on career opportunities at the Census Bureau.

Photograph courtesy of The Kennedy Center

U.S. Department of Commerce
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An Equal Opportunity Employer